22. Railway.—The financial prospects of the extension of the railway from Quilon to Trivandrum continue to be encouraging. In 1094 the traffic receipts from the entire Travancore branch were so far favourable as to yield a net revenue of Rs. 1,61,886 to the Government, after payment of the guaranteed interest on the capital raised for the construction of the Shencottah-Quilon line. The total outlay on the extension of the line from Quilon to Trivandrum up to the end of October 1919 was Rs. 51,05,770. Its further extension to the pier at Trivandrum has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 95,400. The construction of the Srimulavilasam Railway Satrom at Trivandrum, which has been sanctioned out of the private funds of His Highness the Maha Raja, is making progress.

23. Anchal.—The total number of hundies, inland and foreign, rose from 2,57,500 in 1093 to 2,72,224 in 1094 and their value from 31·54 lakhs to 35·36 lakhs. Motor Anchal service was introduced between Kottarakara and Kottayam.

24. Local Self-Government.—Since the close of the year, the Town Improvement Committees of Quilon, Kottayam and Parur have been placed under non-official Presidents, with the result that six municipal towns are now under non-official administration. The new Municipal Bill is ripe for promulgation. A Bill for the formation of Local Boards will be soon introduced in the Legislative Council. The Town Improvement Committees, as a whole, have steadily grown in prosperity during the last quinquennium. Their receipts rose from 1·75 lakhs in 1093 to 1·97 lakhs in 1094, their expenditure from 1·65 lakhs to 1·88 lakhs and their closing balance from 1·02 lakhs to 1·11 lakhs.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

25. Medical relief and Sanitation.—Sub-Assistant Surgeons in independent charge of medical institutions were authorised to perform *post mortem* examinations for medico-legal purposes. Sanction has been accorded to the entertainment of 13 additional midwives, so that every medical institution may have at least one midwife attached to it. A septic ward has been opened in the Women and Children's Hospital at Trivandrum. The establishment of a bacteriological laboratory at Trivandrum has been sanctioned. On the reported outbreak of plague at Mattancheri in Cochin, a set of detailed instructions was issued for preventing the disease being imported into Travancore, and these instructions were found to be of great practical use. Arrangements were made for stocking an adequate supply of cholera medicines in all important Sirkar medical institutions, so that they might be easily obtained by the officers of the Land Revenue Department for free distribution in the event of epidemic outbreaks. Orders were passed approving of the Ag. Darbar Physician's suggestion to introduce prophylactic vaccine treatment against cholera as an experimental measure. An Executive Engineer has been deputed to undertake the necessary investigations in connection with a scheme for the supply of water for the town of Trivandrum and action will be taken by the Government on receipt of his reply. The Department of Ayurveda is becoming increasingly popular, and the various facilities afforded in both the Dispensary and the Pharmacy at Trivandrum are being adequately availed of by the public.

EDUCATION.

26. Statistics.—The number of recognised institutions rose from 2,828 in 1093 to 2,845 in 1094, but their strength fell from 3,75,448 to 3,65,868, showing a decrease of 9,580 pupils. This decrease was almost wholly in the strength of the vernacular schools, there being an increase of 134 pupils in the colleges and 2,497 pupils in the English schools. The decrease is attributed to the prevailing economic distress, which has adversely affected the poorer strata of society from which pupils to the vernacular schools are drawn. While aided schools increased from 1,394 to 1,621 and their strength from 1,35,697 to 1,49,865, the number of unaided schools and the strength in them showed a marked fall, from 346 and 24,424 to 125 and 10,428 respectively. The number of unrecognised schools, on the other hand, in which the education imparted does not approximate to any fixed standard in point

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of time, accommodation, equipment or quality, rose from 1,012 to 1,223 and the strength in them from 32,277 to 41,024. Recognised schools for girls rose in number from 352 to 366 and in strength from 1,13,997 to 1,15,722. Of the total number of girls under instruction, 69,078 were attending boys' schools.

27. English Education.—There were 26 women students in His Highness the Maha Raja's College for Boys against 18 in 1093 and 8 in 1092, the total number of girls attending colleges rising from 86 to 130 during 1094. Recognised English schools rose in number from 94 to 102. 7 lower grade English schools were newly recognised. Form IV was newly opened in four schools, Form V in six schools and Form VI in one school. A departmental lower grade English school for girls was opened at Mavelikara. The number of girls under instruction in recognised English schools rose from 3,348 to 3,976. It is gratifying to note that English school education made considerable progress during the year, as many as 37 schools being newly started under private agency and liberal contributions being made by the people towards the provision of additional accommodation and equipment for existing schools. Since the close of 1094, the Higher Grade English School at Trivandrum has been removed to the buildings at Vanchiyur, erected for the purpose at a cost of four and odd lakhs so far. The boy scouts movement was introduced in the Model School, Trivandrum. Sanction has been accorded to the admission, as private candidates, of pupils who have been twice presented for the English School Leaving Certificate Examination from a recognised school.

28. Vernacular Education.—The immediate control of higher grade vernacular schools was transferred from the Inspectors to the Assistant Inspectors, in view to secure better supervision for them. The scheme for the Vernacular School Leaving Certificate Examination has been revised, substituting a written examination at the end of the course in Class VII. A vocational side to education has been provided in a few higher grade vernacular schools as an experimental measure. A committee, composed of officials and non-officials, has been appointed to go into the question of the course of studies in vernacular schools for boys, and to formulate practical proposals regarding the revision of the curriculam, so as to suit modern conditions and to secure the maximum material benefit to the pupils attending those schools. The minimum pay of vernacular school teachers was raised from Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 per mensem with effect from the beginning of 1095, at an additional cost of more than a lakh per annum. As a result of the special efforts put forth by the Department of the spread of literacy in the Devicolam taluk, which is the most backward portion of the State in point of education, the percentage of its population of school-going age attending recognised schools rose from 1·4 in 1093 to 6·9 in 1094. From a statement furnished by the Director showing the progress of literacy in the State as guaged by the number of pupils attending Classes I to IV of vernacular schools during the last ten years, it is seen that the average duration of school life has increased from 2·9 years to 3·3 years in a course extending over four years, and that 82 per cent of the pupils now complete their course in those classes.

29. Class Education.—There was no complaint on the score of the non-admission of pupils belonging to the depressed classes in public schools. There was a noticeable increase in the number of Mahomedan pupils in English schools. A private girls' school for Mahomedans was opened at Kayankulam. With a view to popularise education among Mahomedans, additional facilities were provided for the teaching of the Koran and Arabic ; a Mahomedan graduate Inspector of schools was appointed ; a scheme of special scholarships was sanctioned for the benefit of Mahomedan pupils attending colleges, English schools and higher grade vernacular schools; free instruction was arranged to be imparted to Mahomedan girls in all schools, special schools being also arranged to be opened for them wherever necessary; and an additional hour for noonday interval was allowed on Fridays. Steps have been taken to remove the Kumnattur Lower Grade English School for Malayala Brahmins to Kulakkada and to provide satisfactory accommodation for it. An annual grant has been sanctioned to the boarding house attached to the Kumaranallur Special Higher Grade Vernacular School for Malayala Brahmins. The concession of half fees has been extended to the pupils of the Kaniyar, Kakkala, Vilakkithala Nair and Araya communities.

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